

TITLE of the INVENTION

" Methods and devices for indexing and searching for digital images taking into account the spatial distribution of the content of the images "

TEXT of the ABSTRACT

According to the invention, a method of indexing a digital image comprises the following steps: generating a first information item ($H(I_m)$) characteristic of the visual content of the image (I_m) to be indexed; generating a second information item ($W(I_m)$) characteristic of the spatial distribution of the visual content of the image (I_m) in its image plane; and associating, with the image (I_m), an index ($IDX(I_m)$) composed of the first information item ($H(I_m)$) and the second information item ($W(I_m)$).

More particularly, the step of generating the first information item ($H(I_m)$) has the following substeps: dividing the image plane of the image (I_m) according to a partitioning comprising a predefined number N of blocks (B_i); extracting, from each of the blocks (B_i), a data item of a first type ($h_i^{I_m}$) representing at least one characteristic of the visual content of the block under consideration; and generating the first information item ($H(I_m)$) as being a vector having N components, each of which is one of the data items of the first type ($h_i^{I_m}$).